



Big Sky Libraries

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Montana State Library [MSL]

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PC First-Aid Kit, Marty Jerome &
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**The Business Library and How
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**Weeding Library Collections -
Library Weeding Methods Fourth
Edition**, by Stanley J. Slote

Teach Yourself SQL in 21 Days,
by Ryan K. Stephens, Ronald R.
Plew, Bryan Morgan, and Jeff
Perkins

**Networking for Dummies - 3rd
Edition**, by Doug Lowe

**Understanding the Census - A
Guide for Marketers, Planners,
Grant Writers and Other Data
Users**, by Michael R. Lavin

News from the Networking Task Force

by Maggie Farrell, MSU-Bozeman

The Networking Task Force is responsible for guiding State Library networking activities and advising the State Library Commission. The Task Force had its first meeting in September 1997 and meet about every other month. The Task Force has tackled a number of tasks and has started to develop future projects which will enhance networking throughout Montana.

Interlibrary loan and sharing resources within Montana have been a priority for the Task Force. The Task Force considered various reimbursement scenarios which would encourage all libraries to participate in interlibrary loans while at the same time recognize the impact of interlibrary loans on larger library collections. After examining several funding strategies, the Task Force decided to maintain the current funding structure. The Task Force is working with the State Library and the MLA ILL Interest Group to develop training, revise the ILL protocols, and state resource sharing. It is the hope of the Task Force that by raising the ILL procedural knowledge and increasing access to journal databases that the resource load will begin to balance out among libraries within the state. The Task Force will reexamine ILL reimbursement in 1999.

While ILL can facilitate resource sharing within state, the Task Force recognizes that libraries need access to resources which cannot be obtained within state. The Task Force has supported the State Library's efforts in negotiating statewide licenses for databases. John Finn, Technology Consultant at the State Library, has been working with EBSCO on negotiations for continuation of the EBSCO databases for Montana. The Task Force worked on

(Networking Task Force - Continued on page 3)

Calendar

June 17 MSL Commission Meeting - Helena
June 25-July 2 ALA Annual Conference - Washington, D.C.
August 12-15 Pacific Northwest Library Association Conf. - Sun Valley, ID
August 12 MSL Commission Meeting - Whitefish
September 7 Labor Day - State Holiday

A Word From Our State Librarian

The past ten days have been, to say the very least, interesting. Last week's annual Montana Library Association conference was certainly eventful. As some of you know, state library employee, Diane Gunderson, was injured in a car accident a few blocks away from the conference hotel. Diane is recovering, but concern for her colored my pleasure at being with Montana's library community. Thanks to all of you who expressed concern for Diane. Also, thanks to those who attended the state library update, the standards meeting, and the Commission's reception. I appreciate your interest in and support of state library activities.

The hardworking standards committee deserves special recognition. Consisting of members of MLA's public library division and the state library, the committee has worked diligently for six months to draft standards to replace the 1983 edition. Six conference calls, one Met-Net meeting, and one conference workshop provided the opportunities for lively discussion on philosophical issues relating to library service. The committee's work will end when the Commission adopts standards this summer, but I will remember always the committee's commitment and our stimulating discussions.

On the heels of the conference, I traveled to Washington, D.C., to attend a Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) meeting and ALA's annual legislative

day. Montana's delegation this year was smaller than in past years, but able to represent your interests to Montana's Congressional delegation. Commissioners Mike Schulz, Mary Doggett, and Lois Fitzpatrick, representing the Montana Library Association, visited the offices of Representative Hill and Senators Burns and Baucus. Each office received us with courtesy, and we found that all three congressmen understood library issues and our messages, including the importance of the Library Services Technology Act (increase the appropriation), the E-Rate (keep the program as is, let the School and Library Cooperation work out administrative problems), critical copyright legislation (support ALA's work) and the proposed increases in the library postal rate (oppose this dramatic change in U.S. Postal Service policy). I felt that each was interested in library topics and eager to hear from you on these issues.

Although the annual conference and National Legislative Day are past, many upcoming activities and events fill my calendar. Significant meetings include Networking and Law Revision Task Forces, the second meeting of the newly reformed Library Advisory Council, and the Hearst's Library 100 years celebration. I also hope to carve out time during the next three months to visit libraries throughout the state.



Karen's Travel Schedule:

June 7 - Hearst Library Centennial Celebration
 June 8-9 - MLA Leadership Retreat
 June 17 - Commission Meeting
 July 8 - Networking Task Force
 July 28 - Library Advisory Council
 August 17 - Commission Meeting,

Directory Changes

Page 3: Library and Information Services Department - Carmen O'Connell new e-mail: coconnell@msl.mt.gov

Montana Talking Books new Volunteer Coordinator Suzy Merrin, 406-444-5399 - e-mail: smer-rin@msl.state.mt.us

Page 12: Dutton Public Library, new address: General Delivery, new zip code: 59433-9999

Page 13: Colstrip -Bicentennial Library - New fax - 406-748-2657

Page 19: Missoula Public Library, new Assistant Director Renee Vailancourt

Page 22: Alberton Branch Library, new zip code: 59820-0087

Page 29: New E-Mail Addresses Peggy Smith, Skyview High School Library, Billings - smithp@billings.k12.mt.us

Jan Kransky, Skyview High School Library, Billings - kranskyj@billings.k12.mt.us

Page 52: New address - Townsend Schools, 201 N. Spruce St. New zip code - 59644-2215

Page 57: The Billings Business Col-

Networking Task Force (Continued from page 1)

developing a cost model based upon population rather than collections budget. The Task Force is also looking at other possibilities to increase access to databases and resources.

Montana libraries have been pursuing access to the Internet, but now the Task Force is turning toward providing content more than access. LSTA funds may assist in this endeavor. How can we ensure that our libraries are connected to each other? If connected, can we facilitate resource sharing and improve interlibrary loans? How can we provide access to resources beyond our state such as full text databases? The Task Force is now examining options of connecting all library catalogs through a central Z39.50 server and possibly adding resources and databases through the server. The Task Force

will also work with the State Library on applying to the Gates Foundation for funds to support Internet connectivity and access.

The Task Force has also worked with the State Library on the development of a model ISP agreement, statewide subscriptions to LaserCat, and the future of the last copy fiction pool collection. The Task Force is keenly aware of the funding realities within Montana and is developing networking initiatives in order to facilitate access to library resources. We are interested in your ideas and suggestions. If you would like to know more about the activities of the Networking Task Force, please check out <<http://msl.mt.gov/admin/ntwktf/ntwktf.html>> or contact one of the Task Force members.

Around the State

The Hearst Free Library celebrates its centennial on June 1st, beginning at 3:00 p.m. Anyone interested in attending is welcome.

Whitefish will hold its grand opening for its new cultural arts and library center July 4th. The new library will house 40,000 volumes, with room for 20,000 more. The city of 5,000 raised more than \$2.5 million in private contributions, representing the equivalent of \$5000 for every man, woman and child in the community.

Voters of Teton County passed the initiative to form joint city-county libraries. With an estimated 48 percent turnout, voters approved the library initiative 1,446 to 310.

The Wibaux County Library Building Fund received a \$2,000 grant from the Paddlefish Caviar Grants Committee of the Glendive Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture.

The Friends of the Havre-Hill County Library scored a successful Valentine Pie Social in February by raising \$750.

Friends of the Miles City Public Library did well at their first Library Book Fair. Over 1,300 people attended and they raised \$2,075 that was divided on a percentage basis between the Friends of the Library and the book supplier, Books are Fun, a commercial

dealer out of Columbus.

Linette Ivanovitch, librarian at the Boulder Community Library resigned. She'll be pursuing an MLS at Syracuse University in New York.

On July 1st Bonnie Williamson of the Havre-Hill Library will become the new coordinator of the Pathfinder Federation. Havre-Hill Library will be the new headquarters for the federation, succeeding the Great Falls Public Library.

Also effective July 1st, the Lewistown Public Library will become the headquarters for the South Central Federation, succeeding the Parmly Billings Library. Janice Bradley will be the new coordinator.

The Great Falls Public Library Foundation will provide the library with up to \$46,000 to purchase expanded public Internet access, library furniture, a new microfilm reader-printer, Value-Line, Health Reference Center, and other needs.

Maggie Farrell, from MSU, has been appointed to the 15-member Public Printer's Depository Library Council for a three year term.

Mary Margaret "Peggy" Mast, librarian at the Fairfield Public Library from 1971 until 1994 passed away on February 28, 1998 in Fairfield.

The newly formed Preston Hot Springs Library Memorial Foundation received an anonymous \$20,000 donation.

A Message from MLA President Darlene Staffeldt

As my term as Montana Library Association President draws to a close I would like to share with you a some of my "State of the Association" address to the Montana Library Association meeting on May 1, 1998. My theme for this past year was Librarians: Celebrating Successes, Challenging the Future, and Embracing the Past. I encourage all Montana Librarians, Trustees and Friends to think BIG about our libraries' future and embrace the winning edge.

In my speech I said, "As I describe the state of the Association I want to borrow from David Prewett, Masonic Grand Lodge Officer. In a speech a couple weeks ago to some high achievement juniors he said, "they have an edge on life, a winning edge. Why, because if the E is for education, d is for dedication, g is for goals, and e is for enthusiasm, then they are on their way to a winning edge." The Association has a winning edge.

Montana Library Association is about education. It is about bringing knowledge and continuing education opportunities to our members so that we can bring better libraries, better educational opportunities via library services to our patrons.

The Montana Library Association is dedicated to the development, promotion, and improvement of library and information services and the profession of librarianship in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all. The Association is fiscally sound.

The Montana Library Association has goals:

- improve the quality of library services and collections;
- support professional development;

- enhance the stature of Montana libraries and librarians;
- develop Association leaders;
- influence state/national information policies and legislative issues;
- maintain an ongoing strategic and financial planning process for the Association; and
- pursue membership growth.

The Montana Library Association is definitely about enthusiasm..bidding, bowling, eating, providing library services, fighting censorship, etc. We as a group or as individuals know how to have fun, as well as how to provide good library services to our patrons. We know how to share our successes as well as our failures. We learn from each other.

Montana Library Association lost two very special mentors this past year - Ruth Longworth and Alma Jacobs, former Montana State Librarians and both along with Inez Herrig, responsible for the development of federations in Montana back in 1956. Ruth, Alma, as well as Inez had a dream for Montana library services and they thought BIG. In 1998, we need to continue to think BIG and as they did in 1956, dream the impossible dream for library services and they will become a reality."

So Montana library folks - librarians, trustees, friends, users dream BIG for Montana libraries. Thanks for the opportunity to serve you in the role as President of the Montana Library Association. I look forward to continue to service you all in my position as Director of Statewide Library Resources at the State Library.

TRUSTEE SURVEY AND WORKSHOPS

In April the Montana State Library sent out a survey for public library trustees and librarians. The survey was designed to collect information about the usefulness and need for revision of the Montana Public Library Trustee Manual written and distributed in 1993. We thank everyone who took the time to complete and return the survey.

The survey also asked trustees to list topics on

which they would like to receive training. Based on the results of the survey, MSL is currently planning workshops at one location in each federation this fall. Not all dates and locations have been confirmed, but in some federations the workshop will be scheduled with the regular fall meeting. Announcements will be sent out soon with details about the workshops.

Notes from MSL

APRIL COMMISSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: The Commission accepted the Networking Task Force Recommendations that administrative rules be amended to allow reimbursement on an annual basis rather than quarterly and to require that the library certify competency in the state's revised interlibrary loan protocols.

Karen Strege presented staff recommendations for new budget items in the next biennium for Commission consideration. The state library transmits the Commission's decision to the Governor for his consideration. The Commission approved the following items, which are listed in priority order.

- Purchase of a statewide license for an electronic periodical database
- Shift of Program 7 costs to the general fund
- Talking Books Library circulation clerk
- Spatial information access program
- Shift of certain parts of Program 1 costs to general fund from federal funding.

The Commission also considered recommendations from the Law Revision Task Force. They approved the following issues in priority order to send to the Governor for consideration.

1. Establishment of Statutes enabling District libraries.
2. Amending the Multijurisdictional Service District statutes
3. Combined Housekeeping Bill.

OTHER COMMISSION NEWS: Michael Schulz, Director of the Carson Memorial Library at Western Montana College of UM, was re-appointed to the Commission by Dr. Richard Crofts, Commissioner of Higher Education, for another a three year term. Governor Marc Racicot re-appointed Mary Doggett of White Sulphur Springs to the Commission for another three year term.

STANDARDS REVISION UPDATE: Standards committee members attended all Spring Federation meetings to solicit opinions and comments on a draft set of standards. After reviewing this information, the committee used video conferencing to discuss a new draft. The State Library sent this draft to all public libraries with an invitation to attend a committee workshop at the Montana Library Association Conference. About 40 interested librarians and trustees attended to give their opinions about the draft. The committee will consider this information and draft another set of standards to present to the Commission this summer. For more information on the process please contact Renee Goss (406-482-1917 or e-mail: erg@yvfn.mtsid.mtlib.org) or Karen Strege (406-444-3116 or e-mail: kstrege@msl.mt.gov).

Law Revision Task Force News

At its April meeting the Task Force decided to make the following recommendations to the Library Commission for their consideration:

Library District Law - New statutes would permit, not require, communities to establish autonomous districts to provide library services. The district would be governed by an elected board of trustees and may encompass multiple counties or portions of a county.

Changes to Federation Law - Revise existing statutes to allow other types of libraries to become members of Federations. The current state aid program to public libraries would not be changed.

Changes to MCA 22-1-304 - Revise this statute to allow voters to approve an increased in the library's maximum levy limit for more than a one-year period.

Changes to Interlibrary Loan Statutes - Clarify that loans are not eligible for reimbursement between libraries within the same school district and/or have overlapping boundaries, between libraries in the same public library jurisdiction, and between academic libraries that are centrally administered.

Change to Multijurisdictional Service District Statutes - Explore options to revise these statutes to clarify when they may be used to create a district library.

Although the Task Force passed these recommendations onto the Commission, their work is not done. Throughout the summer they will be refining these proposals. If you have any comments or questions on these initiatives, please call a Task Force Member or Karen Strege at 444-3116. Task Force meetings are also open to all who wish to attend. The next meeting is at the State Library on June 3 at 8:30 am.



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Karen Strege, State Librarian

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Spotlight: Sue Crispin *New Natural Heritage Program Director*

We are pleased to introduce Sue Crispin, who joined MSL in March as new Director of the Montana Natural Heritage Program (MTNHP). This program is operated by The Nature Conservancy under contract to the State Library, and continues a 14-year tradition as a model of successful public-private partnership.

Sue brings 18 years of experience working with Natural Heritage programs, beginning with the Michigan program, where she served for eight years as botanist and program coordinator. She also spent four years in Canada as director of the Conservancy's Canadian Heritage Task Force, working with governments and conservation organizations to establish Natural Heritage Data Centers in the provinces of British Columbia, Quebec,

Saskatchewan, and Ontario.

Thanks to its location in the State Library, as part of the Natural Resource Information System, MTNHP leads the heritage network in GIS mapping technology and in providing Internet access to natural heritage data. Sue also feels that the program's outstanding staff has been a big reason for its success in Montana and network-wide.

She hopes to help help MTNHP become an even more useful information source for Montana's citizens and institutions. Sue also hopes to increase awareness of MTNHP data as an essential tool for the wise management of Montana's remarkable natural heritage. Contact Sue at [406] 444-3019, or e-mail at scrispin@nris.state.mt.us.

